



Hazel Belle Gurnsey

April 19, 1923 - May 4, 2019

Hazel Belle Gurnsey was born April 19, 1923 in Chandlerville, Illinois to James and Mary (McClure) Colston. She grew up with her parents, three brothers and a cousin in the rural areas of Chandlerville and Virginia. She married James Eugene Gurnsey on June 14, 1941 and they made their home in rural Chandlerville. In 1972, she and James moved to Lake Petersburg and remained in the Petersburg and Springfield area the remainder of her life. She passed away on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the age of 96 at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois. She is survived by two children; Sheila (Charles) Burton of Rushville, Illinois and Wayne (Trish) Gurnsey of Petersburg, Illinois, three grandchildren; Aaron (Katie) Gurnsey of Petersburg, Illinois, Melissa (John) Heil of Germantown Hills, Illinois, and Neil (Janelle) Gurnsey of Petersburg, Illinois, seven great-grandchildren; Jack and Savannah Gurnsey, Audrey, Trevor and Thomas Heil, and Willa and Gwyn Gurnsey. She is also survived by a brother, Raymond (Neda) Colston of Rushville, Illinois. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband James, a grandson, Sam Taylor, two brothers, Franklin Colston and Russell Colston, and a special cousin, James Coats.

Hazel was a farm wife and mother. She and James lived on a farm southeast of Chandlerville until the electric company, Common Wealth Edison, bought their farm and many others in the area to build a future power plant. In 1972, they moved to Lake Petersburg but remained farming for many years. She

spent many hours helping James in the fields with livestock, and running Sheila and Wayne to their many sport and school activities. She made lots of meals for James and the farm hands and many times packed them up and took the meals to the field so they wouldn't have to stop long. She was also known for her pies, two a day in farm seasons, and the pies and lunches she took to the cattle shows for Wayne and the rest of the crew.

Hazel was a long time member of the Cass County Home Extension and helped each year with the meals served by the group at the Cass County 4-H fair. She was a life member of the United Methodist Church, first in Chandlerville and later in Petersburg. She was a 60 year member of the Order of the Eastern Star and served in every office. She was active in all the school booster groups that her children were involved with. She and James were active members of the Shambole Golf Course and played in various leagues.

After James's death, she decided to move to the senior living apartments in Springfield and was currently living at the Arbors of Centennial Pointe. She enjoyed her family and family gatherings. She loved to go to activities where her grandchildren participated, especially sports. She was excited when the great grandchildren came and she could start participating in their activities. She was loved by her family and friends and will be missed by us all.

Funeral services will be at 11 am on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, Illinois. Visitation will be from 9:30 am to 11 am on Wednesday preceding the service. Memorials may be made to the Shriners Children's Hospital or to the United Methodist Church of Petersburg.

Please visit Hazel's online obituary at hurleyfh.com to share memories and condolences. Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg
122 West Douglas Avenue
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-2500
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Funeral

MAY 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg
122 West Douglas Avenue
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-2500
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Hazel Belle Gurnsey*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Larry And Mary Hundt lit a candle in memory of Hazel Belle Gurnsey*



Larry and Mary Hundt - May 07, 2019 at 08:31 AM